

*Trio Concertante* (1986)

William Wallace

“It was both a challenge and a pleasure to write for this unusual but highly effective combination of instruments. (And a pleasure it was as well to assist the Verdehr Trio in its efforts to expand the literature for such a natural grouping.)

*Trio Concertante* is a single-movement work falling into three sections. In the first, the basic thematic materials appear in somewhat traditional fashion. In the extensive third section, these materials recur in a highly developmental way, with much use made of canon as well as less strict imitative devices. The middle section is devoted to unaccompanied solos for clarinet and violin. At the conclusion of the third section, a brief clarinet solo followed by a climax for all three instruments brings the work to a close.”

—William Wallace

The world premiere of *Trio Concertante* was on March 9, 1987 at Le Cheval Blanc, Schiltigheim/Strasbourg, France.

William Wallace (1933–2017) was born in Salt Lake City, Utah and is not to be confused with his earlier Scottish namesake, the composer William Vincent Wallace (1860–1940), nor with the hero of *Braveheart*. This William Wallace was a man of our time, with strong associations with both the United States and Canada. (He held citizenships in both countries.)

Wallace earned a Ph.D. at the University of Utah in 1962 where he studied composition with Leroy Robertson. He also studied with Egon Wellesz and Edmund Rubbra at the University of Oxford. Wallace was on the music faculty of Rutgers University prior to moving to Canada in 1967, when he took up a position at McMaster University to teach music theory and composition, and eventually, music criticism in a master of arts program he helped found. He later taught at the University of Utah.

His music has been performed and broadcast extensively, and recorded commercially by the London Symphony Orchestra, the Warsaw Chamber Orchestra, the Slovak Radio Orchestra (Bratislava) and, with the Verdehrs, by both the Janacek and Martinu Philharmonic Orchestras (Czech Republic). His chamber output includes a *Trio Concertante* and *Sonata a tre*, commissioned by the Verdehr Trio.

In 1989, Wallace retired from full-time teaching to devote major time to composition. He moved to Wilson, Wyoming where he had had a summer home for many years. During his lifetime, he was an avid outdoorsman, passionate conservationist, and enthusiastic supporter of the Grand Teton Music Festival.